

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-3 and 5-11 are now pending in this application. In the December 3, 2007 Office Action, Claims 1-3 and 5-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph as failing to comply with the enablement requirement.

By this amendment, Claims 1, 3, 5, and 11 have been amended. Claims 1, 3, and 11 have been amended for the reasons discussed below. Claim 5 has been amended to correct its dependency after a prior deletion of claim 4. Following entry of this amendment, claims 1-3 and 5-11 will be pending in the present application. For the reasons set forth below, the applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and immediate allowance of this application.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph

In the December 3, 2007 Office Action, claims 1-3 and 5-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The Office Action suggests that the written description inadequately describes how the sensor differentiates an adult hand from any other hand. Although the positioning of the sensors on the disclosed device may allow for only a hand of a particular size to operate the device, for clarity purposes, the applicant has amended claims 1, 3, and 11 to recite any hand, rather than an “adult” hand. The applicant respectfully submits that the written description supports a safety sensor that senses when the device is held by a hand prior to permitting operation. For example, as stated in the Office Action, paragraph [0008] of the specification states, “[s]ensors 110 may include, for example, capacitive-type sensors that sense the difference in capacitance of a moist adult hand versus the surrounding air.”

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, and because the applicant submits that the clarifying amendments made to claims 1, 3, and 11 do not substantively alter the scope of the claims outside of the breadth of any previous prior art search, claims 1-3 and 5-11 are in condition for immediate allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, the applicant respectfully submits that all of the pending claims in the present application are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and reexamination of the application and allowance of the claims at an early date is solicited. If the Examiner has any questions or comments concerning this matter, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicant's undersigned attorney at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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/Michael J. Baldauff, Jr./

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